

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

to take vengeance upon the Clementines. Two cardinals Leonardo de' Griffoni and Jacopo d' Itri, had been captured wit the Queen ; the former denied his allegiance to Clement and burned his red hat; the latter was publicly degraded, and the imprisoned. The Archbishop of Salerno, Giovanni d' Acquaviva is said to have been burned alive.

Tardily, in June, 1382, Louis of Anjou started to rescue the imprisoned Queen and win the royal crown from Charles of Durazzo. His approach was Giovanna's death-warrant. She had been previously sent to the Castello di Muro in the interior of the country, and thence, on the last day of July, what purported to be her dead body was brought to Naples and laid out in state in Santa Chiara, where a solemn requiem was sung. The actual manner of her death is as uncertain as its precise date, but there can be little doubt that she had been murdered at the command of her successor ; according to one version, she was strangled by two of his Hungarian soldiers, while she knelt in prayer. For more than a year, Louis abstained from assuming the royal title, professing to believe that Giovanna still lived.

We are not concerned with the ensuing struggle between Charles and Louis, nor with the miserable deaths of both competitors—Louis dying of the plague at Ban in September, 1384 and Charles by the hands of assassins at Visegrad in February 1386, the fruit of his perfidious usurpation of the crown of Hungary after the death of the great King Louis.

In the previous year, Charles had definitely broken with Urban, had been solemnly excommunicated by him, and had sent his army under Alberigo da Barbiano, whom he had made Constable of Naples, to besiege him in Nocera. It was on this occasion that Urban committed one of the most appalling crimes of the age. His overbearing conduct, and crazy partiality for his abominable nephew, had passed the bounds of endurance. At Nocera, in January, 1385, just before the siege, he discovered what was probably nothing more than a design on the part of certain members of the Curia to put him under restraint.